

Correspondence.

WHO WROTE NICHOLSON'S WORKS?

On the wrapper of the September part of *THE BUILDER* appears the following advertisement:—"Peter Nicholson's Practical Masonry, Bricklaying, and Plastering, revised by Tredgold; both plain and ornamental."

Knowing your willingness at all times to correct error, perhaps you will allow me to state, in reference to the plastering department of the above, that Mr. Peter Nicholson never wrote a single line of the Practical Treatise on plain and ornamental plastering, contained in the above work, it having been supplied by Robert Robson, together with the drawings for the plates, in illustration of the same, under the superintendence of the lamented Tredgold, and certainly in conjunction with Mr. Nicholson, who furnished a portion of the information on the masonry and bricklaying only.

The writer of the present notice does not make this statement with the view of lessening the well-earned fame of the late Mr. Nicholson, who did more for the practical mason, carpenter, and joiner, than any man either before or since his time, as applied to the development of difficult works on constructive architecture; but a love of truth induces the correction of the error, which I think, Sir, you will allow is only fair, as regards the actual writer of the section of the work alluded to.—I am yours, &c. X.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 12th Oct. 1846.

Mr. Nicholson was a personal friend of the writer, and never possessed a knowledge of ornamental plastering, his forte being the development of lines—geometry and mathematical science. Mr. Robson was a journeyman plasterer, working at Windsor Castle, when he wrote the treatise, and supplied the drawings for the plates above adverted to; having done it at the request of Mr. Tredgold, who was his intimate friend.

ARCHITECTURAL CHEMISTRY.

SIR,—Will you allow me to point out to you a paragraph in Mr. Bartholomew's specifications, chap. xix., § 895, which, to save you trouble in referring to, I have copied:—"One of the greatest boons that could be bestowed upon us, as a profession, or indeed upon mankind at large, would be a work upon *Architectural Chemistry*; there are not wanting highly-gifted proficient in chemistry, who by a due consideration of the wants, integrity, and beauty of genuine architecture, might furnish us with a complete development of the nature, constituents, affinities, decomposition, oxidation, and other properties of the minerals and other natural productions which are, or ought to be, used in architecture, or which should be excluded from it." Perhaps the publication of this paragraph in your valuable paper, may be a means of calling the attention of some competent person to the subject.—I am, Sir, &c., J. A. BLENKARN.

Wellow, Ollerion, Notts, Oct. 19th, 1846.

•• An able course of lectures on this subject was delivered at the Institute of Architects a few years ago; its importance is great.

STATE OF SUNDERLAND.—Sunderland, according to a writer in *Douglas Jerrold's* weekly paper, deserves the name of the most inconvenient and almost the filthiest collection of human dwellings in the whole empire. From the single main street, innumerable, long, narrow, dingy alleys branch out, most repugnant to look into. The houses of which they are composed are old, and the inhabitants crowd into separate parts of them, scarcely deserving the name of rooms, in many instances. Open sewers and stench offend the senses wherever you go; and the only wonder is, that the public spirit of the borough is not fully roused to remedy the nuisance amidst which thousands of the working-classes thus live. A body of real reformers in the town, it is somewhat satisfactory to state, are earnestly bent on procuring an Act whereby the Corporation shall have the power of supplying the borough with water and gas, and from the profits form a fund for buying up the nuisance-alleys, and constructing wide and healthy streets on the ground occupied by two or three taken together.

Miscellaneous.

MONUMENT TO COLUMBUS IN GENOA.—

At the end of last month, the first stone of an elaborate monument to the great discoverer was placed in the centre of a piazza near the Strada Balbi. A writer in the *Athenaeum* gives the following description of it:—"Its form will be square, and the length of each side 12 metres. On three steps will be placed a basement, bearing on its sides inscriptions in bronze. At the angles, four pedestals will support as many emblematical figures, representing Science, Piety, Prudence, and Constancy. Between each statue, on the four façades, four bas-reliefs will express important incidents in the history of the Genoese hero: Columbus before the Council of Salamanca—planting the cross on the first discovered land—embarking for Europe in chains—and presenting himself at Barcelona before his sovereign. From the plane of the basement will rise a lofty pedestal, cylindrical in form and highly adorned, bearing aloft a group representing Columbus in the act of discovering America. This design is by Prof. Michele Canzio, and the execution of the principal group is by Bartolini. To Aristodemo Costoli has been assigned the statue of Prudence and the basso-relievo representing Columbus in the act of planting the cross; Luigi Pampaloni will execute the statue of Piety and the dispute at Salamanca; while Giuseppe Gaggini, a Genoese, professor of sculpture in the Royal Academy of Turin, will execute the figure of Science and the presentation of Columbus to the Spanish monarchs in Barcelona; to Emilio Santarelli is allotted the statue of Constancy, and Salvatore Renelli is to execute the basso-relievo representing Columbus in chains."

NEW CHURCH AT BUSSAGE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—The foundation of a new church at Bussage, in the parish of Bixley, was laid about a fortnight ago, the origin of which is somewhat peculiar. Twenty students of different colleges in Oxford have subscribed 2,000*l.* for the purpose, and the Diocesan Church Building Society gave 150*l.* Mr. J. P. Harrison, of Christ Church, Oxford, is the architect. The *Gloucestershire Chronicle* gives the following particulars:—"The church is in the decorated style, and consists of a single nave about fifty feet in extent, and a chancel of about thirty; there is a south porch, and a north door in the interior; the roof is oak; and is fitted with oak open sittings. The pulpit is of stone. The stalls extend to the priest's door and sacristy door, on either side of the chancel; the lectern (from which the lessons are read) stands on the south side of the chancel, near the priest's door. The altar screen is of oak, Gothic and massive, and the flooring of the nave of black and red plain encaustic tiles; those of a figured pattern being used in the chancel. The wall at either side of the altar is encrusted with small encaustic tiles also. The east window is of three lights, and glazed with stained glass, by O'Connor, of London. The font stands near the junction of the tower and nave, and the roof of the building is covered outside with the stone slate of the country."

ANTIQUITIES OF NINEVEH.—Mr. Layard's explorations at Nimroud have proved most successful: in addition to buildings and sculptures, some thousands of inscriptions, in a character similar to that of the Babylonian inscriptions, have been discovered, and will probably prove of great historical value. A correspondent of the *Athenaeum* contrasts the assistance rendered to M. Botta by the French government with the neglect experienced by Mr. Layard:—"For any thing he can know to the contrary, his civilized countrymen sympathize with his pursuits just as little as the Turks themselves. Such neglect is discreditable to the English ministry." We have already mentioned amongst the discoveries here, a hall above 150 feet long and 30 broad: this is entirely built of slabs of marble, covered with sculptures, and the side walls are ornamented with small bas-reliefs, of battle sieges, lion hunts, &c.; all executed with wonderful spirit.

HOLY RHODD CHURCH, SOUTHAMPTON:

COMPETITION.—The design by Messrs. Mee and Webb has been selected for execution. Mr. Geo. Alexander has the second premium, and Messrs. Johnson and Ordish the third.

PAPER HANGINGS.—The following is from the *Morning Post*:—"The mode in which the duty is levied on this description of article has recently been under the consideration of the Customs' authorities, a representation having been made to them on the matter by a party, an importer of this description of merchandise, complaining of the duty being charged by the officers of the revenue on the margin or border of the article. It is known that all paper-hangings, as they are called, used for papering walls and other house purposes, have a border on each side of the design or portion printed with the particular figure, and that it is the custom of the trade, in using the same, to appropriate one border for the purpose of attaching each slip to the other, the remaining border or margin being made available, in addition to the designed portion of the manufacture, in order to give the operation an uniformity throughout. There is an exception to this rule, respecting the more valuable description of paper used for such purposes, including that known as flock paper, in which both borders or margins are used for binding purposes, they being inferior to the design, and are therefore concealed from the view. It appears that in some cases the officers have charged both these borders with duty, on measuring paper-hangings on importation from abroad, considering them to be part and parcel of the whole, and therefore equally liable with the remainder, and in others on one border only; and it having appeared expedient to have a uniformity of practice in the matter, and the authorities being of opinion, on taking the application alluded to into their consideration, that these borders are not strictly liable to, and should not properly be charged with the duty leviable upon paper-hangings, inasmuch as never more than one border is made available for actual use, and frequently neither of them, as before stated. Orders have been issued that in future the admeasurement be taken and the duty charged only on the portion of the paper which bears the printed figure or design. This mode of taking the revenue account for the duty is to be observed with regard to similar importations of the article, and will therefore be of interest and importance to the trade."

REWARD SKILLFUL INDUSTRY.—Reflecting on a recent notice, in our own pages, of the establishment of an industrial exhibition, and the award of prizes in Vienna, *The Patent Journal* says, "We were led into a train of thought on the little encouragement given in England to art and science. With mingled feelings of shame and sorrow were we obliged to confess that Austria—even Austria, upon whose skill and talent, especially in mechanics, we were accustomed to look with contempt rather than envy—here sets before us an example, at once worthy of our imitation and condemnatory of our past neglect. Yes, it is true, that England, the mother of manufactures, the seat of arts, the workshop of the world, the creator of machinery, offers no rewards to genius, no prizes to skill, no distinctions to learning. She confers no titles on her engineers and chemists; she places no stars on the breasts of her sculptors and painters; she calls not to her councils the men of literary merit. This is not the case abroad. France makes peers of writers, and enrolls in the Legion of Honour engineers and architects, manufacturers, and men of merit in all ranks; Bavaria makes a chemist a baron, and grants him a pension; Prussia is profuse in honours and benefits to science; even Russia is not unmindful of the duty and advantages of patronising genius. England cannot yet boast of so much as an exhibition of her varied talents and capabilities. Her real wealth is concealed in the warehouses of Manchester; and what should be her pride and glory, performs unnoticed its useful labours in every factory in the kingdom. No exhibition, no collection, no museum of mechanics and manufactures have we; the foreigner must make a pilgrimage ere he can learn what we have done, or what we are."

THE ANT NUISANCE.—A correspondent says, that if jalap be mixed with sugar and placed where the ants can get at it, they will eat it with great eagerness, and will be destroyed.

THE WIGAN CHIMNEY.—The chimney lately erected by a chemist at Wigan is 420 feet high, and contains 3,000,000 bricks.